

Abstract

5 A tissue press for shaping or compressing a piece of  
tissue comprises first and second members movable relative  
to each other. A first forming element of a predetermined  
shape is selectively engageable on the first member. A  
10 second forming element of predetermined shape is  
selectively engageable on the second member. The first and  
second forming elements are positionable on opposite sides  
of the piece of tissue. The first and second members are  
relatively movable between a first spaced apart condition  
and a second condition in which the piece of tissue is held  
between the first and second forming elements. Means are  
preferably provided for monitoring and controlling the  
amount of pressure applied to the piece of tissue, in order  
15 to maintain the tissue in a viable living condition. Means  
may also be provided for draining off fluid from compressed  
tissue, so that the tissue can be implanted in a compressed  
state and imbibe fluid from the host site. A retainer,  
which may be expandable, can be used to maintain the tissue  
20 graft in a compressed condition.

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